GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:29
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Tiger Reserves
Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tiger reserves in the country at present;
(b) whether the National Tiger Conservation Authority has released funds for some reserves only for "Project Tiger", and if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether there has been some delay in release of funds to tiger reserves in the country and if so, the reasons therefor along with the norms fixed for such releases;
(d) whether the delay in release of funds has affected conservation efforts to some extent besides encouraging poaching; and
(e) if so, the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard along with the other steps taken by the Government for the protection of tigers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) :-A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *29 ON TIGER RESERVES DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.07.2016

(a)As on date, there are 49 tiger reserves in the country and their details, are at Annexure-I.

(b) Funding assistance is given to all the tiger States / tiger reserves under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger based on their Annual Plan of Operations. So far, funds have been released to 18 tiger reserves during the current financial year 2016-17 and others are in progress. Funding assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger given to tiger reserves during the last three years and in the current year so far is at Annexure-II.

(c) No Sir. There is no delay as such in release of funds to tiger reserves in the country. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) provides funding assistance to tiger reserves under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger based on the Annual Plan of Operations (APOs), submitted by the States. The said APOs are required to be in conformity with the prescriptions of the Tiger Conservation Plan duly approved and guidelines issued by the NTCA. The physical and financial progress report along with the utilization certificate of the amount / fund released during the previous year, besides fulfillment of other mandatory conditions as stipulated in the sanction order as well as compliance of Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding are also required to be submitted with the proposed Annual Plan of Operation. The APOs, complete in all respects, are then scrutinized and processed at the NTCA and Integrated Finance Division (IFD) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Due to shortcomings in the proposals (APOs), submitted by the States, processing of the same becomes time taking at times. A web-based application software for online submission of APOs has been developed in consultations with NIC which is going to be used from next year. The said web-based application will curtail the processing time.

(d) & (e)No Sir. To meet out the exigencies, there are Tiger Conservation Foundations as per the statutory provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, established in almost all tiger reserves which takes care of expenditure incurred in the meantime. Besides, proposals for providing funding assistance to rest of the tiger reserves are at different stages of processing.

Several milestone initiatives have been taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority for protection and conservation of tigers and other wild animals, and the same is at Annexure-III.

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